

Permits

Work on forest roads may require one or both of the following permits:

Forest Practices Application/Notification (FPA/N) - This permit is approved by DNR and is required for most forest road work. Please contact the Forest Practices staff at the local DNR office prior to doing road work to see if an FPA/N is needed. Landowners need to keep a copy of the FPA/N and follow any conditions or obligations in the rules and regulations. See the DNR Forest Practices website:
www.dnr.wa.gov/forestpractices

Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) - This permit is approved by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and is required for most work in or above water. If a landowner applies for an FPA/N they do not have to apply for an HPA. (Refer to WAC 222-24) Landowners need to keep a copy of the HPA. See the WDFW website:
www.wa.gov/wdfw/habitat

Additional permits may be needed. See the Department of Ecology Permit Assistance website:
www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/pac/index.html

DNR Region Offices

- Central Region – Chehalis*
360-748-2383
- Northeast Region - Colville
509-684-7474
- Northwest Region – Sedro Woolley
360-856-3500
- Olympic Region - Forks
360-374-6131
- South Puget Sound Region - Enumclaw
360-825-1631
- Southeast Region - Ellensburg
509-925-8510
- Southwest Region – Castle Rock*
360-577-2025

* After 7/1/04 these become the Pacific Cascade Region. Office will be at Castle Rock.

DNR Small Forest Landowner Office (SFLO).
(360) 902-1122 www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo

Road Maintenance and Abandonment for Small Forest Landowners*



Protect your forest road system while protecting water, fish and wildlife under Washington’s Forest Practices Rules

**If you harvest 2 million board feet or less per year from your own property, this brochure is for you.*



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources
Doug Sutherland - Commissioner of Public Lands

2-17-2004

Small forest landowners make significant contributions to protecting Washington’s public resources through good stewardship of their lands. They also have forest roads.

Forest roads can impact public resources such as water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. Studies have shown that sediment (dirt and mud) from forest roads is a significant source of pollution. When it enters streams, sediment can affect fish habitat, health and reproduction. Culverts under roads can become barriers and block free passage of fish.

State laws about forest road maintenance are meant to help minimize the effects of forest roads on water, fish, wildlife and capital improvements. This brochure is intended to help small forest landowners by outlining road maintenance standards and requirements.

More help is available from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

- DNR Small Forest Landowner Office (SFLO). (360) 902-1122 www.dnr.wa.gov/sflo
- DNR Region Offices. Ask for forest practices. See the back of this brochure for a list of Region Offices.



▲ Good road maintenance can protect public resources and a landowner’s investment in forest roads. A clogged cross-drain, like this one, can cause erosion that damages forest roads.

Why is forest road maintenance needed?

Good maintenance can assure that:

- Water drains from a road quickly and does not damage the road.
- Water from a road does not flow directly into streams and wetlands.
- Dirt and mud from a road do not damage streams.

What maintenance is required by law?

Landowners are required to maintain roads only to the extent necessary to prevent damage to a public resource. Exactly how much or what type of maintenance is needed to prevent that damage depends on the road system and the resources at risk.

Are plans or permits required?

Most small forest landowners are required to file either a Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plan (RMAP) or a Checklist RMAP (landowner's choice). Small forest landowners who own 80 acres or less of forestland in Washington are not required to submit an RMAP or Checklist RMAP for parcels that are 20 acres or less.

If work is necessary, it may require a Forest Practices Application/Notification (FPA/N). (See the back of this brochure for more information.)

If you don't have an approved RMAP, you can:

- Submit a Checklist RMAP with the FPA/N.
- Submit a Scheduled RMAP with the FPA/N.

If you have an approved RMAP, you can:

- Keep it and follow its schedule.
- Revise the RMAP.
- Have some roads in a scheduled RMAP and some in a Checklist RMAP.

State law requires forest landowners to improve their forest roads to the extent necessary to prevent damage to public resources. Public resources include water, fish, wildlife, and capital improvements of the state or its political subdivisions.

This brochure provides an outline only. For the complete requirements, see:

Forest Practices Rules,
Board Manual and RCWs.
Washington State Department of
Natural Resources.
222-24 WAC on Road
Construction and Maintenance
Chapter.

For a copy of the Forest Practices
Rules, RCWs and Board Manual,
contact the local DNR Region office.



▲ A water bar helps control runoff from road surfaces.



▲ An example of a drain dip.

How can I maintain my forest roads to protect public resources?

- Make sure culverts are not barriers to fish.
- Divert ditch water away from streams and wetlands. Common methods include ditch-outs, water bars, relief culverts and drain dips.
- For roads located on slopes, keep the uphill and downhill side of the road maintained so dirt and rocks do not move into streams or wetlands. Common methods include grass seeding and hay bales. If grass seeding is needed, use seed mix that is approved for erosion control.
- Inspect forest roads, especially before and after storms, to make sure everything is functioning properly.

If dirt and mud are entering a stream or wetland, **immediate** action may be required. Contact the local DNR Region office.

How do I know if a culvert is a barrier to fish passage?

Barriers to fish passage are sometimes hard to identify. Look for:

- Steep grade in culvert with a lack of gravel and stream material.
- A drop at a culvert outlet.
- Too much or not enough water in the culvert,
- A culvert or inlet that is blocked and not functioning properly.

DNR is responsible for maintaining maps (Activity Maps) that show fish streams, and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is responsible for providing criteria for determining if a structure is a fish passage barrier. Contact the local DNR Region Office for barrier assessment.

Fish passage barriers can be expensive to remedy. The State has developed a cost share program to help landowners with some of the cost for eliminating these barriers.



▲ An outlet drop like this one can be a barrier to fish passage.



▲ This culvert allows free fish passage.

What about abandoned roads?

Road abandonment leaves the road in a self-maintaining condition. Landowners do not have to maintain abandoned roads. However, roads must be abandoned according to WAC 222-24-052(3). Abandoned roads must be approved in writing by DNR. Contact the local DNR Region office.

What about orphaned roads?

An orphaned road is a road or railroad grade that the forest landowner has not used for forest practices activities since 1974. If orphaned roads pose a risk to public resources or public safety, their location must be included on the maps submitted with the landowner's RMAP or Checklist RMAP.

Landowners do not have to maintain orphaned roads. See WAC 222-24-052(4).